

23 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Strategic Research

SUBJECT : Preparation of National Intelligence Estimates

1. The fundamental question is who is to be served by the NIE and how will he use it? In addition, what should be the content and the mechanism for production?

2. Users: Assume President, White House Staff, other policy makers. Assume also a need for detailed data at a national level by planners, especially, OSD.

3. Content: What time frame for projections, what level of detail, what format (if detailed should there be annexes)?

4. Mechanism: Relevant organizations are: (a) Producers -- CIA/DIA, should others be eliminated? (b) ONE Staff -- Question as to the validity of judgmental activity by Staff. (c) USIB committees (GMAIC, JAEIC, SIC). These are effective for developing a community view for certain types of substantive matters. (d) Board of National Estimates -- Question as to its effectiveness in 1) forming judgments based on other analysis without detailed understanding of the analysis, and 2) acting as arbiter for major disagreements between producers without detailed knowledge. BNE tends to solve disagreements by diluting judgments.

5. Possible Alternative: Draft prepared for BNE review by CIA/DIA working group -- chaired by OSR; differences highlighted as in NSSM's. ~~This is a preliminary framework.~~

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Soviet and East European
Forces Division, OSR

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See [REDACTED] sheet for more detail on content.